

Meeting Date: November 5-6, 2008

Agenda Item No. 19

Agenda Item: Trophy Species Update

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Dale Toweill, Trophy Species Coordinator

Background:

This presentation is designed to provide Commissioners with (1) status of moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat populations statewide, and (2) an overview of issues presented to the public for their comments prior to Commission action to adopt trophy species Controlled Hunt recommendations in January 2009.

Public scoping of Controlled Hunts for trophy species (moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat) will occur in November and December.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Fish and Game Commissioners will review staff recommendations and public comment regarding trophy species Controlled Hunts for calendar year 2009 and 2010 in January 2009. At that time, Commissioners will adopt final regulations for the coming two years.

Changes have occurred in some trophy species populations since the Commission was last advised in November 2006.

Policy issues regarding bighorn sheep have emerged in conjunction with ongoing development of a Statewide Bighorn Sheep Species Management Plan.

Public Involvement Process:

Status of trophy species and recommendations for changes in permit numbers, hunt Controlled Hunt boundaries, and Controlled Hunt dates will be presented to the public for review and comment statewide during November and December 2008. In addition, the public was asked to comment on statewide bighorn sheep management issues in a survey of public opinion targeted to bighorn sheep applicants and available on the IDFG website. Commissioners will be provided a summary of the issues raised in the survey will be presented; issues raised by the public during fall and early winter public meetings will be presented to Commissioners in January.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This item is provided for Commissioner information only.

Justification:

Information will aid Commissioners as they respond to requests, clarifications, or recommendations from the public.